

**ENTERED**

March 14, 2016

David J. Bradley, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

JESSE LOPEZ, JR.,

Petitioner,

V.

WILLIAM STEPHENS, DIRECTOR,  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE, CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS DIVISION,

Respondent.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. H-14-3581

ORDER ADOPTING RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pending is Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment (Document No. 20) against Petitioner's Federal Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Document No. 1). The Court has received from the Magistrate Judge a Memorandum and Recommendation recommending that Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment (Document No. 20) be GRANTED and that Petitioner's Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Document No. 1) be DENIED. Petitioner filed Objections (Document No. 34) to the Memorandum and Recommendation. The Court, after having made a *de novo* determination of Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment, Petitioner's Response (Document No. 28), Petitioner's Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus and supporting filings, the Memorandum and Recommendation, and Petitioner's Objections thereto, is of the opinion that the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge are correct and should be and hereby are accepted by the Court in their entirety.

Accordingly,

It is ORDERED and ADJUDGED for the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge filed on January 22, 2016, which is adopted in its entirety as the opinion of this Court, that Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment (Document No. 20) is GRANTED, and Petitioner's Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Document No. 1) is DENIED and DISMISSED with prejudice. It is further

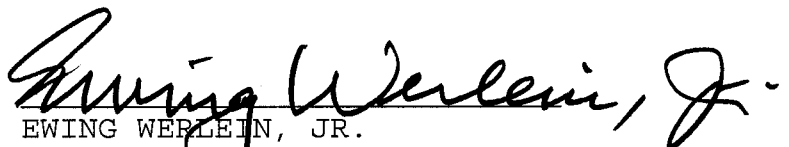
ORDERED that a certificate of appealability is DENIED. A certificate of appealability from a habeas corpus proceeding will not issue unless the petitioner makes "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This standard "includes showing that reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further." Slack v. McDaniel, 120 S. Ct. 1595, 1603-1604 (2000) (internal quotations and citations omitted). Stated differently, where the claims have been dismissed on the merits, the petitioner "must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." Id. at 1604; Beazley v. Johnson, 242 F.3d 248, 263 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.), cert. denied, 122 S.Ct. 329 (2001). When the claims have been dismissed on procedural grounds, the petitioner must show that "jurists of

reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." Slack, 120 S. Ct. at 1604. A district court may deny a certificate of appealability *sua sponte*, without requiring further briefing or argument. Alexander v. Johnson, 211 F.3d 895, 898 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000).

For the reasons set forth in the Memorandum and Recommendation, which has been adopted in its entirety as the opinion of the Court, the Court determines that Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right, and that reasonable jurists would not debate the correctness of the substantive rulings.

The Clerk will enter this Order and send copies to all parties of record.

Signed at Houston, Texas this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2016.

  
EWING WERLEIN, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE